

13 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, FI/Plans/Cover  
Attn: OO/Contacts

SUBJECT : Request for Support from the OO/Contacts Offices of  
[ ] and [ ]

1. On 25 January 1955, [ ] of this Branch intends to proceed to Los Angeles, California, in order to contact Paul VON FIRKSS, 1641 West Eleventh Place, Los Angeles 15, California, for the purpose of debriefing him. VON FIRKSS had been a lieutenant in the German Army during World War II and had served as an intelligence officer in the Baltic States, where just prior to the cessation of hostilities, he organized a German stay-behind net. This Branch is desirous of procuring as many details as possible regarding German intelligence activities in the Baltic States.

2. When contacting VON FIRKSS, [ ] plans to use the alias [ ] he has an AGO card in this alias which he will use if the need arises. If the occasion warrants it, [ ] will claim to be an official of the military establishment. Unless VON FIRKSS' English is fluent enough for this type of debriefing, [ ] will conduct the interview in German.

3. While in California, [ ] intends to contact Arnolds ERNSTSONS, who is a Latvian pastor residing at 767 Silver Avenue, San Francisco, California. ERNSTSONS had made [ ] acquaintance during 1949 and 1950 in Germany when the former was the Lutheran pastor at the Displaced Persons Transit Center at Wentorf, British Zone, Germany. Since ERNSTSONS arrival in the United States, he has been approached by a principal agent of this Branch, who has procured sufficient biographic data, enabling a request for clearance. As a result a covert security clearance on ERNSTSONS has been obtained. It is intended to utilize him as a spotter of prospective agent personnel. In view of this, [ ] whom, incidentally, ERNSTSONS knows by his true name, intends to contact ERNSTSONS so that he can be briefed accordingly.

4. It is requested that the OO/Contacts Office in [ ] inform VON FIRKSS that an official of the U.S. Government desires to talk to him any time at his convenience during the period 26 January to 30 January 1955. It is assumed that VON FIRKSS is occupied during the daytime hours, necessitating that the debriefing take place during evening hours or on a weekend. It is anticipated that [ ] will require either three full evenings or one and a half weekend days to accomplish the debriefing. As a result, it would be greatly appreciated if OO/Contacts could advise this Branch when VON FIRKSS would be available and hold himself in

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)  
(2)(A) Privacy ☐  
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒  
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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readiness for this debriefing during the afore-mentioned period.

5. Inasmuch as [ ] is personally acquainted with ERNSTSONS, he will correspond with him directly and arrange for a suitable time to meet as soon as this Branch has been informed of the dates on which VON FIRKES will be available.

6. It is further requested that a member of the OO/Contacts Office accompany [ ] on his visits with VON FIRKES as well as with ERNSTSONS so that any necessary local operational arrangements can be handled properly.

[ ]  
Chief, SR/2

[ ] [ ]/lsb